IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Inventor(s)	:	Eric Auvray et al.
Serial No.	:	Net Yet Assigned
Filed	:	February 8, 2002
For	:	ADAPTIVE METHOD OF ENCODING AND DECODING A SERIES OF PICTURES BY TRANSFORMATION, AND DEVICES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS METHOD
Examiner	:	Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit	:	Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, on the line immediately following the Title and prior to the first sentence, add:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of Application Serial No. 09/978,376, filed October 17, 2001, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 07/408,515, filed November 30, 1995 claiming the benefit and priority of PCT International Application No. PCT/FR88/00649, filed December 30, 1988, and French Application No. 87 18371, filed December 30, 1987.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 13-16, 19-22, and 25-43, without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 17-18 and 23-24 are pending in this application.

In the parent application (Serial No. 09/978,376, filed October 17, 2001) of the instant application, the Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention as follows:

SPECIES Number	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	DEPENDENT CLAIMS
1	13 & 19	14-16 & 20-22
2	17 &23	
3	18 & 24	
4	25 & 28	29-30 & 26-27
5	31 & 41	34 & 37
6	33, 42 & 43	36 &39
7	40	

The Examiner has apparently inadvertently overlooked independent claim 32 which applicants believe aligns with species number 6 as identified by the Examiner.

Claims 35 and 38 are dependent from claim 32 and thus are also aligned with Examiner-identified species number 6.

A telephone interview and subsequent telephonic follow-up were conducted between applicants' counsel and the Examiner on February 4, 2002 and February 5, 2002, respectively, with respect to subsequent prosecution of this application and any divisional applications. Applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the consideration shown in granting that interview and for the useful dialogue and discussion that ensued.

Accord was reached between the Examiner and applicants' counsel with regard to the examination of claims 13-43 (Examiner identified species 1-7). It was agreed that Examiner-identified species numbers 1 and 4 (claims 13-16, 19-22, and 25-30) would be examined in the parent continuation application (Serial No. 09/978,376); that Examiner-identified species 2 and 3 (claims 17-18 and 23-24) would be examined in a first divisional application; and that Examiner-identified species 5-7 (claims 31-43) would be examined in a second divisional application.

As a result of that accord, claims 13-16, 19-22, and 25-43 (claims directed to species 1, 4, and 5-7) are canceled in the instant application without prejudice; leaving claims 17-18 and 23-24 pending. Claims 17-18 and 23-24 are reproduced as an appendix to this preliminary amendment for the Examiner's convenience.
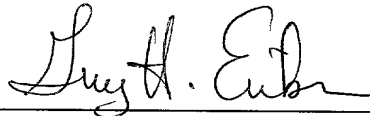
Applicants respectfully request substantive examination and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, applicants request that the Examiner contacts the applicants' attorney at (609) 734-9699, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled, at which time any remaining issues may be expeditiously addressed or otherwise disposed of.

    Applicants request that the fees corresponding to the instant application with respect to the number and type of claims presented be determined after entry of this preliminary amendment, in accordance with MPEP §607. The fee transmittal sheet accompanying the instant application is calculated based on claims presented after entry of the instant preliminary amendment. If it is determined that an error has been made with respect to the required fees, please charge or credit Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Auvray et al.

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February 8, 2002

APPENDIX

CLAIMS PRESENTED FOR EXAMINATION AFTER PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

17.   A method for coding a sequence of pictures, wherein each picture is divided into blocks of picture elements, each block being represented by a luminance block and two chrominance blocks and wherein an inter coding takes into account a previous picture and an intra coding is independent from the previous picture, wherein same coding (inter or intra) is applied to the luminance blocks and to the chrominance blocks.

18.   A method for coding a sequence of pictures, wherein each picture is divided into blocks of picture elements, each block being represented by a luminance block and two chrominance blocks, wherein an inter coding takes into account a previous picture and an intra coding is independent from a previous picture and wherein, using weighting coefficients, high spatial frequencies are less weighted than low spatial frequencies and said weighting coefficients have the same values, apart from the application of a multiplication constant, for luminance block and chrominance blocks.

23.   A method for decoding a sequence of pictures coded in such a way that each picture is divided into blocks of picture elements, each block being represented by a luminance block and two chrominance blocks and that an inter coding takes into account a previous picture and an intra coding is independent from the previous picture, wherein the same decoding (inter or intra) is applied to the luminance blocks and to the chrominance blocks.

24.   A method for decoding a sequence of pictures coded in such a way that each picture is divided into blocks of picture elements, each block being represented by a luminance block and two chrominance blocks and that an inter coding takes into account a previous picture and an intra coding is independent from a previous picture, the coding using weighting coefficients, high spatial frequencies being less weighted than low spatial frequencies, comprising a step of inverse weighting of the spatial frequencies, the weighting coefficients used for this inverse weighting having the same values, apart from the application of a multiplication constant, for luminance block and chrominance blocks.